

Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) Chronology
(the best guess of current scholarship)
BCE = Before the Common Era or BC CE=Common Era or AD

Timeframe	Happenings	OT Writings & Books
In the Beginning	Creation , Fall and Flood	
1800 – 1600	Period of Israelite Ancestors: Abe/Sarah, Ike/Rebekah, Jake & Bro's	
1300 – 1250	Hebrew Exodus from Egypt and wilderness wanderings	Oral Transmission of stories
1250 – 1020	Conquest of Canaan and period of Judges	1100 – 900 : Various poetic passages, some are written down
1020 – 922	United Monarchy of Israel (Saul, David and Solomon)	Yahwistic History
922 – 722	Northern Kingdom of Israel (destroyed by Assyrians)	
922 – 587	Southern Kingdom of Israel (destroyed by Babylonians) 621 – Josiah Reformation	800's – Elohist History 700's – Amos, Hosea, Isaiah 1-39, Micah 600's – Deuteronomy (1 st draft), Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Early form of Deut., Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings Torah writings accepted as Canon
587 – 538	Babylonian Exile	500's - Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Lamentations, Final form of Deut. History, Priestly History, Isaiah 40-55, Haggai, Zechariah, Obadiah, Job
539 – 332	Persian Rule	400's – Isaiah 56-66, Malachi, Joel, Jonah, Ruth, Torah (Pentateuch) in final form
332 – 142	Hellenistic Rule	300's - Esther, Song of Solomon, Ezra, Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles 200's – Ecclesiastes Prophet writings accepted as Canon
164 – 63	Maccabean and Hasmonean rulers	100's – Daniel Writings accepted as Canon – no formal meeting.
63 BCE – 324 CE	Roman Rule 70 AD – Destruction of the Temple by Romans	90 CE/AD – Jamnia meeting – how does Jewish faith survive without Temple. Created first listing of OT but with no official sanction to do so 300 CE/AD - wide spread acceptance of Jamnia list
Proverbs were sayings gathered from 900's to final form in 300's Psalms were hymns gathered from 1100's to final form in 200's		

Source: Introduction to the Bible, Clyde Fant, et.al., 2001, Abington, Nashville